

CLEVELAND, OHIO
EMPOWERMENT ZONE DEPARTMENT
2001-2002 Grant Amount: **\$7 Million**

SUB-GRANTEE: **Vocational Guidance Services**
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Mission and Vision

The mission of the Youth Opportunity Movement is to promote upward mobility and economic self-sufficiency through a comprehensive service delivery system in the areas of Literacy, Education, Employment, Job Training, Community Development and Economic Opportunity. The utilization of both technological and grass-roots approaches provides in school and out-of-school youth, between the ages of 14-21, the opportunity to participate in the life of the community by improving their physical, educational, cultural and social well being, thus giving them options beyond the streets. The end result is to bring change, which in turn fosters a sense of accountability, a positive attitude, and a holistic approach to reclaiming of one's self.

Program Overview

Our goal, through a comprehensive system of service delivery to youth, is to decrease the Empowerment Zone high school dropout rate, place youth in long-term employment opportunities, and provide educational enhancement programming that lead to post-secondary placement.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- Completion and opening of the YO Center as well as two satellite offices in each of our neighborhoods
- A WIA contract with the City of Cleveland, to serve 180 out-of-zone youth
- Our in-school "Quantum Program" in place and serving 200 youth
- A successful 1st Annual Youth Summit
- The continued support of service provider cluster group monthly meetings
- The YO! ZONE newsletter
- MOU with the Cleveland Job Corps Center for co-enrollment and joint marketing efforts

KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Project Learn**, providing literacy tutoring and GED classes at the YO! Center
- **Towards Employment**, providing supportive services, transportation, childcare, and linkages to additional community resources
- **Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)**, providing the "Quantum Program" in the EZ high schools
- **Catholic Charities/ Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Services**, reaches out to youth who are experiencing problems
- **Center for Employment Training**, provides technical skills training in machine tool, welding, shipping and receiving and printing and graphics, and a GED build into the program
- **100 Black Men**, providing mentoring and educational remediation for out-of-school youth
- **Wyse Landau**, providing public relations and marketing support services
- **CWRU - Youth Philanthropy Services**, providing service learning and community service opportunities